



## **Richard D. Olson, M.D., M.P.H**

### **Acting Director**

### **Office of Clinical and Preventive Services**

### **Indian Health Service**

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Richard D. Olson, M.D., began his career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in 1973 at the IHS W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He was a member of the PHS Commissioned Corp for over 30 years until his recent retirement as a Commissioned Officer.

In 2002, Dr. Olson assumed the duties as Acting Director for the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services (OCPS), which includes all aspects of Indian health care. The OCPS focuses on health program policy development, agency budget development, national health professional recruitment, program implementation, and managing several grant programs, including those in the Special Diabetes Program for Indians which total \$150 million annually. His special area of expertise is in health facilities planning.

From 1995 to 2002 Dr. Olson served as the Chief Medical Officer for the Phoenix Area IHS. In this position, he served as primary advisor to the Area Director and other Area executive staff concerning health program and policy issues for the Phoenix Area hospitals, health centers, and Urban Indian and community health programs in Nevada, Utah, and portions of Arizona. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Director of Patient Care Professional Affairs, Office of Health Programs, at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, where he instituted the IHS credentialing and privileging system of records and developed the IHS medical tort claim review system. For 10 years Dr. Olson served as the Clinical Director at the W. W. Hastings Indian Hospital, which at the time had the second largest outpatient workload in the entire IHS. He helped establish a multi-departmental medical staff, the intensive care unit, and an oncology program.

Dr. Olson is a member of the IHS Director's Executive Council, which is a decision-making body for the Agency on broad issues of policy, programs, and public health advocacy. The Council is composed of senior leadership from Headquarters, Area Offices, and the four IHS National Professional Councils.

In 1967, Dr. Olson earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology from Rice University in Houston, Texas, and in 1971 he earned his medical degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee. He completed an internal medicine residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas, and at the Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois; he is board certified in internal medicine. In 1987 Dr. Olson earned a masters of public health degree in health care administration from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Olson has received the PHS Meritorious Service Medal, the Government Technology Leadership Award, and numerous other PHS and IHS awards and honors.